2007 that China had destroyed one of its own meteorological satellites in polar orbit with an interceptor launched from Chinese territory.

(b) and (c) Government has noted that, following the test, China has reiterated its commitment to the longstanding international consensus on peaceful uses of outer space. This consensus, however, could be undermined by continuation of such testing or deployment of weapons in outer space. Government will continue to be closely engaged with the multilateral effort towards keeping outer space free of weapons.

Indians in foreign jails

314. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 929 given in Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2006 and state the specific efforts that were made particularly to secure release of 1200 Indian prisoners languishing in Saudi Arabia, 350 from Malaysia, 900 from Bangladesh and more than 800 from Singapore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Over and above the information in respect of Question No. 929 given in House on 30th November, 2006, additional information as requested for now is being collected from the concerned Missions and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Racist attack in Russia

315. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all Ambassadors and High Commissioners to intervene and rectify high-handedness in dealing with Indian citizens in foreign countries;

(b) whether Indian students face racist attacks in Russia;

(c) whether Embassy in Moscow interacts with the Russian Government on each and every violent attack on Indian students; and

(d) the details of such action giving specific evidence which our Embassy has taken up in Russia in 2005-06 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government of India, from time to time, issues directives to its Ambassadors and High Commissioners to keep a close watch on the well-being and security of Indian nationals living abroad. The Indian Missions and Posts liaise, as necessary, with their host governments to ensure that Indian citizens in foreign countries are treated fairly.

(b) to (d) There have been cases of attacks on Indian students in Russia, but explicit links to racism have not been established during investigations by the Russian authorities. The Embassy of India in Moscow and the Indian consulates in Russia take up all cases that come to their notice promptly with the Russian authorities.

Three cases of attacks on Indian students are reported to have occurred in St. Petersburg. The first victim, Shri Kishore Kumar Anjangi, was a student of the Mechnikov Medical Academy, and survived the attack on him in April, 2006. The second victim, Shri Nitesh Kumar Singh, was a student of the same academy, and succumbed to the injuries received during the attack on him in September, 2006. Another student of that Academy, Shri Mohammed Farook Nather Hussain was attacked in December, 2006 and survived the attack. The Indian Embassy in Moscow and the Consulate in St. Petersburg took up the cases with the Russian authorities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation has intimated that criminal cases have been initiated by the St. Petersburg authorities with respect to the April and September, 2006 incidents. Guided by the advice of the Russian Department of Interior, the Mechnikov Medical Academy signed an agreement with a private security agency, and an emergency alarm system was installed. As a result of the efforts of the Indian Embassy in Moscow and the Consulate in St. Petersburg, several other measures—including police booths and patrol cars, surveillance cameras, better lighting, emergency alarm systems—have been taken to enhance security around the universities and hostels where Indian students study and live.